

## Freeway fight: defeat or surrender?

By Greta C. Rogers

It is PARC's (Protecting Arizona Resources and Children) mission to enlist a community-wide dedication to raise essential funds to save Ahwatukee Foothills today and for posterity. This will be a three- to five-year, or more, community stand together to campaign to defeat the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) proposed Pecos Road alignment for the South Mountain Freeway (SMF).

As stated, this will be a three- to five-year long, or longer, concentrated legal fight in federal court to save our community's life quality, health and safety. Why? Because this Loop 202 Freeway link in the Maricopa County Regional Freeway Transportation plan, proposed in 1982, will be an Interstate Commerce Commission 18-wheeler truck bypass between Interstate 10 southeast of Phoenix to I-10 west of Phoenix. It will not be a commuter reliever to central Phoenix to move traffic efficiently. And by a MAG engineer's admission, November 2005 at an Ahwatukee Village Planning Committee meeting, the SMF will not relieve Broadway Curve congestion.

The estimated cost of defeating the SMF proposal is \$1 million to \$1.5 million over the three to five years (or more) for legal preparation and litigation processes. The major costs are: legal counsel and requisite technical, professional



consultation, research and testifying. Howard Shanker, PARC's legal counsel who specializes in environmental and natural resource law, will coordinate and lead the preparation for litigation after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is issued by ADOT, date unknown. The final EIS required to be published by ADOT will determine the time for filing litigation against them, MAG and FHWA on the SMF decision to build. No date is known for public notice of either the draft or the final EIS.

It is presently estimated that legal and related support activity will cost \$700,000 to \$900,000, including technical and professional consultation. This is the single major cost to PARC's mission and goal.

PARC's financial services are contracted with Alan Blau, president of Alan Blau and Associates in Tempe. Blau advises PARC on all financial matters and will file all legally required reports to the state of Arizona and the Internal Revenue Service. PARC is an approved nonprofit by the Arizona Corporation Commission and a 501(c)-3 nonprofit by the IRS to allow tax-

deductible contributions. The estimated cost for Blau's services is \$50,000 for three to five years.

Environmental consultation is currently fluid and PARC's goal is to have a permanent appointment of a highly qualified person before March 31. Estimated cost for this position is not presently available.

General budget business operation costs for PARC are to be less than 5 percent of total dollars raised, presently estimated at \$6,000-\$8,000 annually. The largest expenditure in this category will be for advertising and public information.

Estimates to fund the \$1 million to \$1.5 million goal with \$100 single annual memberships and \$250 family annual memberships break down as follows: 1) 10,000 singles X 100 = \$1,000,000; 2) 10,000 family X \$250 = \$2,500,000; 3) projected reality = half of above = \$1,750,000.

With an estimated 64,000 adults in Ahwatukee Foothills based upon 82,000, plus total adjusted mid-decade census and a reported 18,000 K-12 public school students (fall 2006 by *The Arizona Republic*), we can, as a community, raise the \$1,000,000 or more to save the Ahwatukee Foothills environment by supporting PARC!

You can access [www.protectazchildren.org](http://www.protectazchildren.org) or mail your contribution to PARC, P.O. Box 50455, Phoenix, 85076. All memberships and financial information are confidential with PARC.

*Greta Rogers is a long-time resident and former real estate agent.*